

CLAIMS

1. A Common Interface module releasably connectable to a Common Interface connector of a digital multimedia device, said module comprising:

- 5 - a Common Interface connector including a transport stream interface and a command interface releasably connectable to a corresponding transport stream interface and command interface, respectively, of the Common Interface connector of said digital multimedia device;
- 10 - an IEEE 1394 link layer circuit connected to the Common Interface connector of said module;
- an IEEE 1394 physical layer circuit connected to said link layer circuit; and
- 15 - an IEEE 1394 Serial Bus interface connected to said physical layer circuit and releasably connectable to an IEEE 1394 Serial Bus to thereby enable said digital multimedia device to transmit a transport stream of digital multimedia and/or commands on said IEEE 1394 Serial Bus and/or to receive a transport stream of digital multimedia and/or commands from said IEEE 1394 Serial Bus.
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2. The Common Interface module as claimed in claim 1 wherein said link layer circuit and said IEEE 1394 physical layer circuit are integrated into a single chip.

25 3. The Common Interface module as claimed in claim 1 wherein said Common Interface connector of said module is implemented as a standard PC card connector as specified by the PCMCIA.

4. The Common Interface module as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a processor and software to assist said digital multimedia device to transmit said transport stream of digital multimedia and/or commands on said IEEE 1394 Serial Bus and/or

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to receive said transport stream of digital multimedia and/or commands from said IEEE 1394 Serial Bus.

5. The Common Interface module as claimed in claim 1 further comprising additional circuitry arranged to buffer said transport stream between said Common Interface connector and said IEEE 1394 link layer circuit in order to assure proper synchronization thereof.

6. The Common Interface module as claimed in claim 1 further comprising additional circuitry for synchronization of control commands between the command interface 44c of the Common Interface connector 44 and said IEEE 1394 link layer circuit 42.

7. A method for enabling a digital multimedia device to transmit a transport stream of digital multimedia and/or commands onto an IEEE 1394 Serial Bus and/or to receive a transport stream of digital multimedia and/or commands from said IEEE 1394 Serial Bus, wherein said digital multimedia device comprises a Common Interface connector including a transport stream interface and command interface, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing a Common Interface module comprising a Common Interface connector including a transport stream interface and a command interface; an IEEE 1394 link layer circuit connected to the Common Interface connector of said module; an IEEE 1394 physical layer circuit connected to said link layer circuit; and an IEEE 1394 Serial Bus interface connected to said physical layer circuit;

- connecting the Common Interface connector of said Common Interface module to the Common Interface connector of said digital multimedia device; and

- connecting the IEEE 1394 Serial Bus interface of said Common Interface module to said IEEE 1394 Serial Bus.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said transmission of said transport stream of digital multimedia and/or commands onto the IEEE 1394 Serial Bus, and/or said reception of said transport stream of digital multimedia and/or commands from said IEEE 1394 Serial Bus, are/is assisted by means of a processor and software.